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Next session starts January 9th, 2006



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Fall 2005 Session Update

What matters most to the people of Washington is building a great state we are all proud to call home. Achieving this means:

Investing in our children's education;

Creating and keeping the best jobs; and

Ensuring access to affordable health care for all.

We broke the partisan gridlock in Olympia to make some of the largest new investments in jobs and education this state has ever seen.

This year, I sponsored legislation that made historic gains in funding for better schools, safer roads, and cheaper health coverage and prescription drugs. And, as a member of the House Commerce and Labor Committee, I fought to protect people who work in Washington and to build a skilled workforce that is paid a livable wage.

Zack Hudgins

Jobs and Economic Development

We're moving our economy forward with unprecedented investments in transportation and education, assistance for Main Street businesses, and help for working families.

Investing in Washington's communities

This year we passed the Public Works Trust Fund Loan Program, generating an estimated 6,000 new construction jobs and more than \$620 million dollars in economic activity as a result of low or no-interest loans to communities for bridges, roads, water, sanitary sewer, storm sewer, and solid waste projects. Not only does this plan create jobs in the near future, it ensures a stronger - and safer - infrastructure for years to come.

- Seattle - South Park Flood Control/Local Drainage: \$3.4 million
- Seattle - Taylor Creek Fish Barrier Removal: \$450,500
- Skyway Water/Sewer District - 84th Avenue South Water Supply Main: \$1,130,526
- Burien - Park Acquisition: \$421,350

Ensuring a bright future for our children

An educated workforce is a must for the emerging economy. I am especially pleased the Legislature fully funded the voter-approved education initiatives to reduce class sizes and improve teacher pay, I-728 and I-732.

I'm also pleased we funded room for 7,900 more students at our 2-year and 4-year colleges and bolstered the State Need Grant program, helping to make college more accessible and affordable for many more high school graduates.

Keeping Kids Healthy

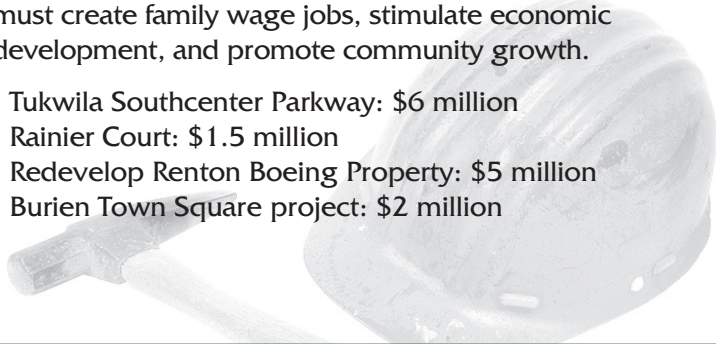
- Children without access to health care are more likely to go to emergency rooms and be hospitalized for preventable illnesses.
- I supported a bill to provide health care for an additional 38,750 children and to preserve basic medical services for 955,000 people in Washington.
- We set in motion a plan to provide health care coverage to all children in Washington by the year 2010
- We also maintained 100,000 enrollments in the Basic Health Plan and expanded health insurance to cover mental health.



Attracting businesses to our state

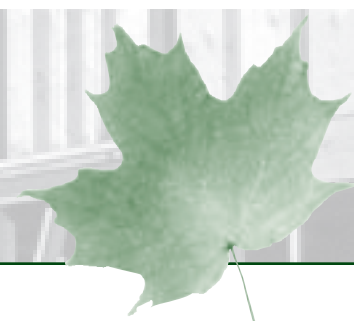
The new Job Development Fund will help local communities retain and recruit businesses -- a top priority of local governments and Economic Development Councils throughout the state. The Job Development Fund will assist cities, counties, ports and other local governments build needed infrastructure projects. To qualify, these projects must create family wage jobs, stimulate economic development, and promote community growth.

- Tukwila Southcenter Parkway: \$6 million
- Rainier Court: \$1.5 million
- Redevelop Renton Boeing Property: \$5 million
- Burien Town Square project: \$2 million

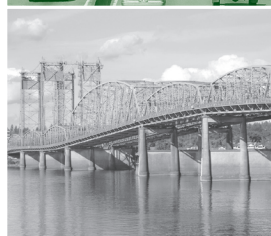


Representative Zack Hudgins Fall 2005 Session Update

11th District



Jobs and Economic Development



Keeping our state's economy moving

Fulfilling the number one priority of the state's labor and business community, the House and Senate negotiated an historic bipartisan transportation budget that will address safety, congestion, local infrastructure and freight mobility issues over the next 16 years, and create thousands of direct and indirect jobs. There's no question a major earthquake or natural disaster could potentially destroy some of the bridges and major roadways in the region we rely on. And if those collapse, our local economy is sure to follow.

Highlights of the transportation package:

- \$2 billion for the Alaskan Way Viaduct
- \$500 million for the SR 520 floating bridge
- \$430 million for other bridge replacements and preservation
- \$280 million for safety projects throughout the state
- \$550 million to help the economy by making it easier and faster for freight and goods to move throughout our state
- \$740 million for public transportation investments that integrate road, rail, ferry and buses to move people efficiently and conveniently
- \$602 million directly to cities and counties to help with local road needs

To see the budget, visit: <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/>

Protecting our quality of life and environment

We passed the "high-performance buildings" bill this session, which made Washington the first state in the U.S. to require smart energy standards for all of its new schools and public buildings. Energy-efficient buildings save tax-dollars by lowering utility bills and promote better health for our children. This year the Legislature joined eight other states in adopting stricter car emission standards as well.

Finally, I was proud to pass a bill that helps local communities join together for the purpose of preserving parks and open spaces in our communities. Washington is a beautiful place and we must work hard to preserve it for our children and grandchildren.

In the works for the 2006 Session

I've remained busy since the end of the '05 session meeting with citizens and businesses, and working on legislation for the upcoming legislative session.

Here are a few of the issues I've been working on:

Investigating gas prices

The public deserves to find out why prices can jump overnight 10 cents or more, and why there seems to be a huge price gap from station to station. I took part in a hearing to investigate whether or not consumers are being gouged at the pump. While the attorney general's office expressed the difficulty of proving price gouging and collusion amongst gas station retailers, I believe the problem stems from a much deeper problem. In the past decade, refinery capacity has slowly declined, leading to decreased supply and hence, rising prices. Competition has also decreased – mergers and consolidation in the oil industry means only a handful of companies control nearly all of our oil supply.

While the state has little authority over these global corporations, we can take steps to insulate us from huge spikes in the cost of gas, as well as invest in cheaper and cleaner energy sources. Some good ideas came out of the hearing. I plan to take them to Olympia and help Washington gain greater energy independence from those companies while cutting down on pollution.



Celebrating the 100th birthday of our state parks

I'm excited to be a member of the Washington State Parks Centennial Advisory Committee, which was created to plan the 100th birthday celebration of our state parks in 2013.

Our state's parks are enjoyed by visitors from all over the country. As an appointed member of the committee, I am helping to modernize and protect our state parks for the next century of visitors.

To find out how you can volunteer to help our parks usher in the new century and join in the celebration, please visit: <http://www.parks.wa.gov/Centennial2013/>

Encouraging growth in Washington's cutting-edge industries

I recently toured some cutting-edge companies around Washington that are leading the nation in new energy and fuel cell technologies, as well as new educational facilities poised to train the next generation of workers.

We're on the cusp of an energy revolution. With the right amount of investment and support, Washington could be a national – and international – leader in alternative energy sources. Ultimately, it could mean better institutions of learning and a cleaner environment. I hope to take what I learned from these businesses and help them build on their success with the right policies and investments.



Zack visits a solar power pilot project in Eastern Washington.